

DR. J. H. M'GREGOR, NOTED ZOOLOGIST

Columbia Professor Emeritus
Is Dead at 82—Specialist
on Prehistoric Man

11/15/84
Dr. James Howard McGregor, a distinguished zoologist who had been associated with Columbia University for forty-five years, died yesterday in St. Luke's Hospital in his eighty-third year.

Dr. McGregor, became a professor emeritus in 1942, fell early Thursday and broke his hip in his apartment, 400 West 119th Street. Death followed an embolism.

Besides his university post, Dr. McGregor was on the staff of the American Museum of Natural History. He specialized in the restoration of prehistoric man. In the course of this work, he was frequently outspoken in the course of controversies as to the age and characteristics of early humans and of the great apes.

In 1930, for example, he differed with Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, who had asserted that the fact that a gorilla could not use its thumb constituted an argument against what Dr. Osborn called the "myth of ape-man ancestry."

Dr. McGregor held that the thumb of the gorilla, particularly in the young animal, was "far from useless."

Born in Bellaire, Ohio, July 23, 1872, the scientist was the son of Robert Alexander McGregor and the former Lucy Watterson. He took his bachelor's degree at Ohio State, earning an M. A. and a Ph. D. from Columbia. He joined the staff there in 1897, becoming Professor of Zoology in 1924.

From 1898 to 1906 he was on the staff of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass. Dr. McGregor became an associate in human anatomy at the Natural History Museum in 1916. As an expert in the study of primates and fossil races of man, he was a member of many zoological and anthropological groups.

He belonged also to the Society for the Study of Evolution, the American Philosophical Society, Sigma Xi and Phi Beta Kappa.

Dr. McGregor was a member of the African Anatomical Expedition, jointly sponsored in 1929 by Columbia and the Museum of Natural History. The party brought back five adult gorillas. In 1938, Dr. McGregor introduced a new course into the Columbia summer session. It was called "The Evolution of Man."

He is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Benjamin C. Tyler of Palmyra, N. Y.; Mrs. W. V. TeWinkel of Northampton, Mass., and Mrs. Harry Tyler of Bellaire.

McGregor, J. H.

My professor in
comparative anatomy